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30 December 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 30 December 1965

Mr. Helms was in the chair as Acting DCI.

Graham reported on SIGINT evidence that the ChiCom MIG which downed a BLUE SPRINGS drone over North Vietnam on 24 December did the job with an air-to-air missile.

Graham tabled tracks of yesterday's reconnaissance missions in the NVN-Laos area by tactical U. S. aircraft.

Graham reported nothing new on Shelepin's visit to Hanoi. There is no evidence that he has yet left Moscow. In answer to A/DCI's query, DD/P said that various stations have been put on the alert to gather information on this mission.

Graham noted a CIB item today on the Bolivia situation, [ ] report on the growing insurgency threat in Thailand, and the current situation in the Dominican Republic.

Graham noted that Bill Bundy had called yesterday to commend the recent memo produced by OCI on Cambodia. The memo is being sanitized and reduced to the Secret level per the Department's request.

Kent commended a recent memo done by the DD/I Research Staff dealing with ChiCom, Soviet, and NVN developments. It was agreed that DD/I would consider sanitizing this report for wider dissemination.

[ ] noted that weather is not expected to permit a TACKLE mission over South China today. Steps will be taken to get explicit 303 Committee approval for forthcoming TACKLE operations in view of the fact that current approvals expire at the end of the month.

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25X1 [ ] noted that the Soviet attempt to launch a vehicle for a soft landing on the moon appears imminent. Graham said this had been covered in a recent President's Daily Brief.

25X1 DD/P reported that we have successfully acquired a piece of the [ ] It was agreed that the Pentagon would be given first crack at the analysis of this hardware.

[ ]

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Mr. Helms reported on a telephone call from the DCI yesterday. The DCI will be in town on the evening of 3 January.

Mr. Helms requested that, as was the case during the Christmas holidays last week, all senior officials and their associates should ensure that the Watch Office knows of their whereabouts during the coming weekend.

At Mr. Helms' inquiry, [ ] explained that work is being done by the SIGINT Committee in connection with [ ] moves to put an end to certain reconnaissance operations in the [ ] area. CIA and DIA are preparing an assessment of the degree of loss which an end to such reconnaissance would mean and an attempt is being made to set forth alternatives which might fill the gaps. In general, it is thought that the loss would not be significant and that the large numbers of peripheral reconnaissance flights tend to endanger vitally important [ ] periphery. (See Action 2)

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Mr. Helms reported on a phone call from Secretary Rusk yesterday concerning the Soviet charge that the Agency was responsible for bugging the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa. The charge is not true.

ACTIONS:

1. OCI is requested to ensure that intelligence highlights are sent daily to the President during the coming three-day holiday weekend. (DD/I)

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2. Upon completion of the current study of the reconnaissance problem in the [ ] area, the SIGINT Committee is to provide a letter for DCI signature to McGeorge Bundy, setting forth the implications of peripheral reconnaissance flights as they relate to the problem of maintaining SIGINT facilities abroad. (CIA SIGINT Officer -- by 7 January)

[ ]

L. K. White

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